

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of latent image bearing members;

a plurality of visible image forming units each including
5 development means for developing latent images on said latent
image bearing member to form visible images thereon;

a light scanning means for forming said latent images on
said latent image bearing members, said scanning means
including a deflecting means for deflecting image information
10 light to form said latent images on surfaces of said latent image
bearing members;

an endless intermediate transfer member;

means for rotating said endless intermediate transfer
member;

15 a transfer means for transferring said visible images
formed by said visible image forming units in a manner to be
superposed on said endless intermediate transfer member;

a mark detection means for detecting a base mark affixed
onto a predetermined location on a surface of said endless
20 intermediate transfer member and providing a mark detecting
signal corresponding thereto;

a standard angle detection means for detecting light
deflected by said deflecting means arriving at a predetermined
angle of deflection; and

25 a deflection angle phase correction means included in
said light scanning means for correcting a phase of change in
angle of deflection caused by said deflecting means based on at

least the mark detection signal from said mark detection means and a standard angle detection signal from said standard angle detection means, wherein

said light scanning means is configured to carry out light scanning onto said plurality of latent image bearing members such that at least one pair of neighboring visible image forming units of said plurality of visible image forming units are both subjected to light scanning by a same deflecting means, and wherein

said endless intermediate transfer member is adapted to be rotated for a plurality of rounds by said means for rotating such that a surface thereof is superposed thereon with plural visible images each provided by a same of said visible image forming units during each round of rotation.

2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said plurality of visible image forming units each includes first and second image forming units to constitute said pair of neighboring visible image forming units, such that, after forming a double-color image by sequentially transferring to superpose said plural visible images each formed by said first and second visible image forming units onto the surface of said endless intermediate transfer member during a first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member, a quadruple-color image is formed by sequentially transferring to superpose plural visible images each formed by said first and

second visible image forming units onto said double-color image during a second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member, and wherein

said light scanning means is configured, after storing a
5 time lag $dt1$ as a difference between a time Ta when a mark detection signal is detected and a time Tb when said standard angle detection signal is detected during a first rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member,

to measure a time lag $dt2$ as a difference between a time
10 Tc when said mark detection signal is detected and a time Td when said standard angle detection signal is detected during a second rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member, and

to correct said phase based on said time lag $dt2$ and said
15 time lag $dt1$ previously stored.

3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

said light scanning means is configured to
20 store in advance a predetermined base correction time $t1'$;
initiate optical image writing for a first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit based on said standard angle detection signal
25 detected after a time Te determined as a time elapsed by said base correction time $t1$ from said time Ta ;

correct said phase, during a period between a time Tc and

a time including the time T_c and said base correction time t_1 ,
based on said time lag dt_2 and said time lag dt_1 ; and

initiate optical image writing for a second round of
rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said
5 latent image bearing member included in said first visible image
forming unit.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 3,
wherein

10 said light scanning means is configured
to store in advance a predetermined standard time
difference t_s ;

to compute a time difference Δt as a difference between
said time lag dt_2 and said time lag dt_1 ; and,

15 in a case where said standard time difference $t_s \geq$ said
time difference Δt , it is decided not to correct said phase prior to
said optical image writing for a first round of rotation of said
endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image
bearing member included in said first visible image forming
20 unit.

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 4,
wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said
phase,

25 said light scanning means is configured to
initiate optical image writing for a second round of
rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said

latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit based on a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after a time has elapsed by a predetermined time from T_c , and

5 determine said predetermined time in comparison with said base correction time t_1 based in at least a time T_f when optical image writing is initiated for a first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit, said time T_e , said base correction time t_1 , said
10 time lag dt_1 , and said time lag dt_2 .

6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said
15 phase,

 said light scanning means is configured to store in advance a time difference tx between said time T_e and said time T_f , and

 determine said predetermined time based on at least
20 magnitude relation of said time lag dt_1 and said time lag dt_2 , and said time difference tx .

7. The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

25 a plurality of base marks equally spaced with a predetermined pitch there between each affixed onto said endless intermediate transfer member in a direction of rotation, wherein,

in a case where optical image writing for a first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is completed at a time T_g when a predetermined
5 number of said mark detection signals are detected after said time T_a ,

said light scanning means is configured to

correct said phase, during a period between said time T_g and a time after said time T_g that has elapsed by said base
10 correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_3 between said time T_g and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_g , and said time lag dt_1 ; and

initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said
15 latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for a second
20 round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time T_h when anyone of said mark detection signals is detected after said time T_c ,

25 said light scanning means is configured to

correct said phase, during a period between said time T_h and a time after said time T_h that has elapsed by said base

correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_4 between said time T_h and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_h , and said time lag dt_2 ; and

initiate optical image writing for said second round of
5 rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

9. The image forming apparatus according to claim 6,
10 further comprising:

a first mark detection means as said mark detection means; and

a second mark detection means for detecting a second base mark situated between said first and said second visible
15 image forming units, wherein,

in a case where optical image writing for a first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time T_i when a second
20 mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time T_a when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal,

said light scanning means is configured to
25 correct said phase, during a period between said time T_i and a time after said time T_i that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_5 between said time T_i

and a time when said standard angle detection signal is produced firstly after said time T_i , and said time lag dt_1 ; and

initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

10. The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for a second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time T_j when the second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time T_c when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal,

said light scanning means is configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time T_j and a time after said time T_j has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_6 between said time T_j and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_j , and said time lag dt_2 ; and

initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

11. The image forming apparatus according to claim 6,
wherein, in a case where said image information is of
double-color images, said double-color images being able to be
formed by superposing first color images formed by said first
5 visible image forming unit and second color images formed by
said second visible image forming unit,

said light scanning means is configured to initiate optical
image writing onto said latent image bearing member included
in said first visible image forming unit based on a time when
10 said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said
time Ta without waiting for an arrival of said time Te.

12. The image forming apparatus according to claim 11,
further comprising:

15 a plurality of development means included in each of said
first and second visible image forming units; and

a development effecting means for selectively enabling
one of said first and second visible image forming units, wherein,

in a case where said double-color images can be formed of
20 a first color being able to be developed by anyone of said
plurality of development means included in said first visible
image forming unit and of a second color being able to be
developed by anyone of said plurality of development means
included in said second visible image forming unit,

25 said first and second visible image forming units are each
configured to enable said first color and said second color,
respectively, by selectively enabling one of said plurality of

development means by means of said development effecting means.

13. The image forming apparatus according to claim 6,
5 wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said phase,

said light scanning means is configured to
store a sum of said time difference t_x and said base
correction time t_1 as an added correction time t_1' , and
10 determine said predetermined time based on at least
magnitude relation of said time lag dt_1 and said time lag dt_2 ,
and said added correction time t_1' .

14. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13,
15 further comprising:

a plurality of base marks equally spaced with a
predetermined pitch there between each affixed onto said endless
intermediate transfer member in a direction of rotation, wherein,
in a case where optical image writing for a first round of
20 rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said
latent image bearing member included in said first visible image
forming unit is completed at a time T_g when a predetermined
number of said mark detection signals are detected after said
time T_a ,

25 said light scanning means is configured to
correct said phase, during a period between said time T_g
and a time after said time T_g that has elapsed by said base

correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_3 between said time T_g and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_g , and said time lag dt_1 ; and

initiate optical image writing for said first round of
5 rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

15 15. The image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for a second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time T_h when anyone of said mark detection signals is detected after said
15 time T_c ,

said light scanning means is configured to

correct said phase, during a period between said time T_h and a time after said time T_h that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_4 between said time T_h
20 and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_h , and said time lag dt_2 ; and

initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible
25 image forming unit.

16. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13,

further comprising:

a first mark detection means as said mark detection means; and

5 a second mark detection means for detecting a second base mark situated between said first and said second visible image forming units, wherein,

in a case where optical image writing for a first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time T_i when a second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time T_a when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal,

15 said light scanning means is configured to

correct said phase, during a period between said time T_i and a time after said time T_i that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_5 between said time T_i and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_i , and said time lag dt_1 ; and

20 initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

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17. The image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for a second

round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit is already completed at a time T_j when the second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time T_c when the mark detection signal is detected by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal,

said light scanning means is configured to

correct said phase, during a period between said time T_j and a time after said time T_j elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_6 between said time T_j and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_j , and said time lag dt_2 ; and

initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said endless intermediate transfer member onto said latent image bearing member included in said second visible image forming unit.

18. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein, in a case where said image information is of double-color images, said double-color images being able to be formed by superposing first color images formed by said first visible image forming unit and second color images formed by said second visible image forming unit,

said light scanning means is configured to initiate optical image writing onto said latent image bearing member included in said first visible image forming unit based on a time when

said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time Ta without waiting for an arrival of said time Te.

19. The image forming apparatus according to claim 18,
5 further comprising:

a plurality of development means included in each of said first and second visible image forming units; and

a development effecting means for selectively enabling one of said first and second visible image forming units, wherein,
10 in a case where said double-color images can be formed of a first color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said first visible image forming unit and of a second color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means
15 included in said second visible image forming unit,

said first and second visible image forming units are each configured to enable said first color and said second color, respectively, by selectively enabling one of said plurality of development means by means of said development effecting
20 means.

20. An image forming apparatus, comprising:
means for bearing latent images;
means for forming visible images by developing said
25 latent images;
means for implementing light scanning to form said latent images by deflecting light, including image information,

to irradiate surfaces of said means for bearing latent images;

means for transferring visible images formed by said
means for forming visible images including an intermediate
transfer means rotated by a rotation means;

5 first means for detecting a base mark affixed onto a
predetermined location on a surface of said intermediate transfer
means;

second means for detecting light deflected by said means
for implementing light scanning at a predetermined angle of
10 deflection; and

means for correcting a phase of change in angle of
deflection by said means for implementing light scanning based
on at least a mark detection signal from said first means for
detecting a base mark, and a standard angle detection signal
15 from said second means for detecting light, wherein

said means for implementing light scanning carries out
light scanning such that at least one pair of neighboring visible
image forming means of said means for forming visible images
are subjected to light scanning both by a same of said means for
20 implementing light scanning, and wherein

said intermediate transfer means is adapted to be rotated
for a plurality of rounds such that a surface thereof is
superposed thereon with plural visible images each provided by a
same of said means for forming visible images during each
25 round.

21. The image forming apparatus according to claim 20,

wherein

said means for forming visible images includes first and second image forming means to constitute said pair of neighboring visible image forming means, such that, after forming a double-color image by sequentially transferring to superpose said plural visible images each formed by said first and second visible image forming means onto the surface of said intermediate transfer means during a first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means, a quadruple-color image is formed by sequentially transferring to superpose plural visible images each formed by said first and second visible image forming means onto said double-color image during a second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means, and wherein

said means for implementing light scanning is configured, after storing a time lag $dt1$ as a difference between a time Ta when a mark detection signal is detected and a time Tb when said standard angle detection signal is detected during a first rotation of said intermediate transfer means,

to measure a time lag $dt2$ as a difference between a time Tc when said mark detection signal is detected and a time Td when said standard angle detection signal is detected during a second rotation of said intermediate transfer means, and

to correct said phase based on said time lag $dt2$ and said time lag $dt1$ previously stored.

22. The image forming apparatus according to claim 21,

wherein

said means for implementing light scanning is configured to

store in advance a predetermined base correction time $t1'$;

5 initiate optical image writing for a first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said latent image bearing means included in said first visible image forming means based on said standard angle detection signal detected after a time T_e determined as a time elapsed by said base
10 correction time $t1$ from said time T_a ;

correct said phase, during a period between a time T_c and a time including the time T_c and said base correction time $t1$, based on said time lag $dt2$ and said time lag $dt1$; and

initiate optical image writing for a second round of
15 rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means.

23. The image forming apparatus according to claim 22,
20 wherein

said means for implementing light scanning is configured to store in advance a predetermined standard time difference t_s ;

to compute a time difference Δt as a difference between
25 said time lag $dt2$ and said time lag $dt1$; and,

in a case where said standard time difference $t_s \geq$ said time difference Δt , it is decided not to correct said phase prior to

said optical image writing for a first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means.

5 24. The image forming apparatus according to claim 23, wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said phase,

said means for implementing light scanning is configured to

10 initiate optical image writing for a second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means based on a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after a time has elapsed by a
15 predetermined time from T_c , and

determine said predetermined time in comparison with said base correction time t_1 based in at least a time T_f when optical image writing is initiated for a first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing
20 latent images included in said first visible image forming means, said time T_e , said base correction time t_1 , said time lag dt_1 , and said time lag dt_2 .

25 25. The image forming apparatus according to claim 24, wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said phase,

said means for implementing light scanning is configured

to

store in advance a time difference t_x between said time T_e and said time T_f , and

determine said predetermined time based on at least
5 magnitude relation of said time lag dt_1 and said time lag dt_2 ,
and said time difference t_x .

26. The image forming apparatus according to claim 25,
further comprising:

10 a plurality of base marks equally spaced with a
predetermined pitch there between each affixed onto the
intermediate transfer means in a direction of rotation, wherein,
in a case where optical image writing for a first round of
rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for
15 bearing latent images included in said first visible image
forming means is completed at a time T_g when a predetermined
number of said mark detection signals are detected after said
time T_a ,

said means for implementing light scanning is configured
20 to

correct said phase, during a period between said time T_g
and a time after said time T_g that has elapsed by said base
correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_3 between said time T_g
and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected
25 firstly after said time T_g , and said time lag dt_1 ; and

initiate optical image writing for said first round of
rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for

bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

27. The image forming apparatus according to claim 26,
5 wherein, in a case where optical image writing for a second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is already completed at a time T_h when anyone said mark detection signals is detected after said time T_c ,
10 said means for implementing light scanning is configured to
correct said phase, during a period between said time T_h and a time after said time T_h that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_4 between said time T_h
15 and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_h , and said time lag dt_2 ; and
initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image
20 forming means.

28. The image forming apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising:

first mark detection means as said first means for
25 detecting a base mark; and

second mark detection means for detecting a second base mark situated between said first said second visible image

forming means, wherein,

in a case where optical image writing for a first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image

5 forming means is already completed at a time T_i when a second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time T_a when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal,

10 said means for implementing light scanning is configured to

correct said phase, during a period between said time T_i and a time after said time T_i elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_5 between said time T_i that has
15 and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_i , and said time lag dt_1 ; and

initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image
20 forming means.

29. The image forming apparatus according to claim 28, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for a second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said
25 means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is already completed at a time T_j when the second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark

detection means after said time T_c when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detection signal,

5 said means for implementing light scanning is configured to

 correct said phase, during a period between said time T_j and a time after said time T_j has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_6 between said time T_j and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly
10 after said time T_j , and said time lag dt_2 ; and

 initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

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 30. The image forming apparatus according to claim 25, wherein, in a case where said image information is of double-color images, said double-color images being able to be formed by superposing first color images formed by said first
20 visible image forming means and second color images formed by said second visible image forming means,

 said means for implementing light scanning is configured to initiate optical image writing onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means
25 based on a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_a without waiting for an arrival of said time T_e .

31. The image forming apparatus according to claim 30,
further comprising:

a plurality of development means included in each of said
5 first and second visible image forming means; and

a development effecting means for selectively enabling
one of said first and second visible image forming means,
wherein,

in a case where said double-color images can be formed of
10 a first color being able to be developed by anyone of said
plurality of development means included in said first visible
image forming means unit and of a second color being able to be
developed by anyone of said plurality of development means
included in said second visible image forming means,

15 said first and second visible image forming means are
each configured to enable said first color and said second color,
respectively, by selectively enabling one of said plurality of
development means by means of said development effecting
means.

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32. The image forming apparatus according to claim
25, wherein, in said case where it is decided not to correct said
phase,

said means for implementing light scanning light
25 scanning means is configured to

store a sum of said time difference t_x and said base correction
time t_1 as an added correction time t_1' , and

determine said predetermined time based on at least magnitude relation of said time lag $dt1$ and said time lag $dt2$, and said added correction time $t1'$.

5 33. The image forming apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising:

 a plurality of base marks equally spaced with a predetermined pitch there between each affixed onto said intermediate transfer means in a direction of endless rotation,
10 wherein,

 in a case where optical image writing for a first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is completed at a time Tg when a predetermined
15 number of said mark detection signals are detected after said time Ta ,

 said means for implementing light scanning is configured to correct said phase, during a period between said time Tg and a time after said time Tg that has elapsed by said base
20 correction time $t1$, based on a time lag $dt3$ between said time Tg and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time Tg , and said time lag $dt1$; and

 initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for
25 bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

34. The image forming apparatus according to claim 33, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for a second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible
5 image forming means is already completed at a time T_h when anyone of said mark detection signals is detected after said time T_c ,

said means for implementing light scanning is configured to

10 correct said phase, during a period between said time T_h and a time after said time T_h that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_4 between said time T_h and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_h , and said time lag dt_2 ; and

15 initiate optical image writing for said second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

20 35. The image forming apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising:

first mark detection means as said first means for detecting a base mark; and

25 second mark detection means for detecting a second base mark situated between said first and second visible image forming means, wherein,

in a case where optical image writing for a first round of

rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is already completed at a time T_i when a second mark detection signal is produced by said second mark detection means after said time T_a when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a previous mark detecting signal,

said means for implementing light scanning is configured to

correct said phase, during a period between said time T_i and a time after said time T_i that has elapsed by said base correction time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_5 between said time T_i and a time when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly after said time T_i , and said time lag dt_1 ; and

initiate optical image writing for said first round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said second visible image forming means.

36. The image forming apparatus according to claim 35, wherein, in a case where optical image writing for a second round of rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for bearing latent images included in said first visible image forming means is already completed at a time T_j when the second mark detection signal is detected by said second mark detection means after said time T_c when the mark detection signal is produced by said first mark detection means as a

previous mark detecting signal,

said means for implementing light scanning is configured to

correct said phase, during a period between said time T_j
5 and a time after said time T_j elapsed by said base correction
time t_1 , based on a time lag dt_6 between said time T_j and a time
when said standard angle detection signal is detected firstly
after said time T_j , and said time lag dt_2 ; and

initiate optical image writing for said second round of
10 rotation of said intermediate transfer means onto said means for
bearing latent images included in said second visible image
forming means.

37. The image forming apparatus according to claim 32,
15 wherein, in a case where said image information is of
double-color images, said double-color images being able to be
formed by superposing first color images formed by said first
visible image forming means and second color images formed by
said second visible image forming means,

20 said means for implementing light scanning is configured
to initiate optical image writing onto said means for bearing
latent images included in said first visible image forming means
based on a time when said standard angle detection signal is
detected firstly after said time T_a without waiting for an arrival
25 of said time T_e .

38. The image forming apparatus according to claim 37,

further comprising:

a plurality of development means included in each of said first and second visible image forming means; and

5 a development effecting means for selectively enabling one of said first and second visible image forming means, wherein,

in a case where said double-color images can be formed of a first color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said first visible
10 image forming means and of a second color being able to be developed by anyone of said plurality of development means included in said second visible image forming means,

said first and second visible image forming means are each configured to enable said first color and said second color,
15 respectively, by selectively enabling one of said plurality of development means by means of said development effecting means.